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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

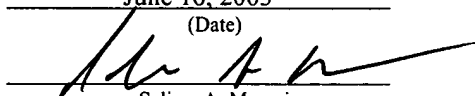
Applicants : Chad C. Smutney et al.
Appl. No. : 09/757,138
Filed : January 9, 2001
For : BLUNTABLE NEEDLE ASSEMBLY
WITH OPEN-ENDED BLUNTING
PROBE
Examiner : Roz Ghafoorian

Group Art Unit 3763

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

June 16, 2003

(Date)


Salima A. Merani
Recognized under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.121

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to an Office Action mailed on January 14, 2003. With a two-month extension, this response is timely filed by June 16, 2003.

This paper is submitted in the format of the proposed revision to 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

06/23/2003 MAHEDI 00000094 09757138 410.00 OP
02 FC:1252